



THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
CASPER FIELD OFFICE



**DECISION RECORD/FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**  
**Pioneer Oil & Gas Emigrant Gap Federal #1 Well**  
**Environmental Assessment**  
**NEPA Compliance Document WY060-EA08-038**

**Introduction**

Pioneer Oil & Gas has filed an application for permit to drill (APD) the Emigrant Gap #1 well in Lot 12 (SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ ) of Section 6, T. 32 N., R. 80 W., on Federal oil and gas lease WYW158024. Pioneer Oil & Gas will construct a 200' by 240' well pad to accommodate the drill rig and will construct about 2,271 feet of new access road to get to the well site from Highway 220. WYDOT has granted Pioneer Oil & Gas a temporary permit to utilize this road for drilling, completion, and maintenance of the well. Pioneer Oil & Gas has not received an approach permit from WYDOT for permanent access to the well site in the event they complete the well as a producing oil well.

The National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 requires the Bureau of Land Management (NEPA) to review the environmental impacts of this proposal through the preparation of an environmental analysis; in this case an Environmental Assessment (EA). The EA is available to the public at the Casper Field Office at 2987 Prospector Drive, Casper, Wyoming 82604.

**Finding of No Significant Impact**

The proposed action is in conformance with the Casper Resource Management Plan of December of 2007. I have reviewed the above mentioned EA and determined that the drilling of the above listed well will not significantly affect the quality of the human environment, and an environmental impact statement is not required. This determination is based on the rationale that significance criteria as defined by the Council on Environmental Quality (**40 CFR 1508.27**) are not being met, or if met will be mitigated to a level that will not be significant. The following rationale was used to determine that significant impacts were not present for each criteria mentioned in **40 CFR 1508.27**:

**Rationale for Decision**

- (1) The short and long term impacts as disclosed in EA WY060-EA08-038 are not considered to be significant to the human environment. The short term impacts from implementation of the proposed action are local and not national or regional in nature.
- (2) Implementation of the proposed action will not adversely affect the goals of the Casper Resource Management Plan.



- (3) Mitigation measures along with the surface use plan in the APD will limit the adverse impacts of the proposed action.
- (4) The proposed action will not affect public health and safety.
- (5) There will be no significant irreversible resource commitments or irretrievable loss to areas of critical environmental concern, cultural resources, prime or unique farmlands, Native American religious concerns, threatened and/or endangered species, wetlands or riparian zones, wild and scenic rivers, or wilderness.
- (6) There are no known effects on the human environment that are highly uncertain or involve unique or unknown risks.
- (7) The proposed action does not set a precedent.
- (8) The proposed action does not violate Federal, State, or local law requirements imposed for the protection of the environment.

### **DECISION**

It is my decision to approve the proposed action as described in EA WY060-EA08-038 with the mitigation measures recommended by BLM resource specialists and identified below:

- (1) Pioneer Oil & Gas shall use the proposed access route only for the purpose of drilling, completion, and maintenance as instructed by WYDOT. In the event commercial production is established and there is a change in the permanent access route, Pioneer Oil & Gas shall obtain the necessary permit from WYDOT and submit a sundry notice to the Authorized Officer for approval prior to initiating any construction activity.
- (2) If field conditions are dry, Pioneer Oil & Gas shall apply water or magnesium chloride water or some other form of dust control approved by the Authorized Officer (AO) to the access road during periods of high vehicle traffic especially during the drilling and completion phase of the well.
- (3) Pioneer Oil & Gas shall be responsible for weed control on all areas associated with the approved APD.
- (4) If the well is productive and there is a need to dispose of produced water, Pioneer Oil & Gas shall obtain the necessary approval from the Authorized Officer and the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality in the event an NPDES permit is needed.
- (5) To protect big game animals in crucial winter range habitat, Pioneer Oil & Gas shall not conduct drilling operations or wildlife disturbing activities between November 1<sup>st</sup> and April 30<sup>th</sup> without the consent of the Authorized Officer.
- (6) To protect nesting raptors, Pioneer Oil & Gas shall not conduct drilling operations or other wildlife disturbing activities between February 1<sup>st</sup> and July 31<sup>st</sup> without the consent of the Authorized Officer.



(7) Pioneer Oil & Gas shall not conduct drilling operations or other wildlife disturbing activities between November 1<sup>st</sup> and March 31<sup>st</sup> to protect eagles utilizing the Emigrant Gap flyway between the Jackson Canyon Eagle Roost and North Platte River Feeding Concentration area.

(8) Pioneer Oil & Gas shall avoid conducting surface disturbing activities were possible in the black-tailed prairie dog town that is located in the vicinity of the proposed activity.

(8) Pioneer Oil & Gas shall construct any power lines associated with this project according to the standards identified by the Avian Power Line Interaction Committee (APLIC 2006).

(9) In the event the well is a dry hole, Pioneer Oil & Gas shall close the reserve pit and reclaim the access road and well pad within 6-months of completing the well.

(10) In the event commercial production is established, Pioneer Oil & Gas shall install low profile production facilities including storage tanks, heater-treater, etc.

(11) In the event commercial production is established, Pioneer Oil & Gas shall plant 15 to 25 juniper trees or other appropriate native species approved by the Authorized Officer between the highway and the well site to provide a vegetative screen.

(12) In the event commercial production is established and there is H<sub>2</sub>S vapors associated with production, Pioneer Oil & Gas should install vapor recovery units on their storage tanks and flare when necessary with a continuous ignition system.

/s/ ***Patrick Moore***

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Assistant Field Manager, Lands & Minerals  
Casper Field Office

April 30, 2008

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Date